

3131



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Hathaway et al.

Serial No. 10/008,781

Filed November 13, 2001

APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
POSITIVE CLOSURE OF AN INTERNAL
TISSUE MEMBRANE OPENING

)
) Before the Examiner
) Woo, Julian W.
)
) Group Art Unit
) 3731
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant wishes to bring to the attention of the Examiner the patents, publications, and/or other information listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 (modified). Copies of cited items are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56(b).

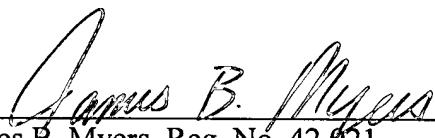
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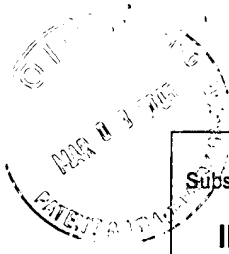
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This Statement is being submitted after filing of the application and after receipt of the First Office Action. The fee of \$180 is to be charged to the American Express account number shown on the attached form (PTO-2038). It is believed that no additional fees are due; however if any fees are deemed necessary, the US Patent & Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 23-3030 but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/008,781
				Filing Date	November 13, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Hathaway
				Group Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	Woo
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	7037-438

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US 2397823	04-1946	Walter	
		US 4168073	09-1979	LaRue	
		US 4437465	03-1984	Nomoto et al.	
		US 4493323	01-1985	Albright et al.	
		US 4836205	06-1989	Barrett	
		US 4898155	02-1990	Ovil et al.	
		US 4957498	09-1990	Caspari et al.	
		US 5037433	08-1991	Wilk et al.	
		US 5304184	04-1994	Hathaway et al.	
		US 5476469	12-1995	Hathaway et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		SU 1093329A	05-1984	Nikol 'Skiy		

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s) publisher city and/or country where published	T ²

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.